

HIGHLANDS

CROSBY

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

P.O. DRAWER 405, HIGHLANDS, TEXAS 77562

IN THE STARS

EVENTS

**SAT-MON.
MAY 28-30**

Sales Tax Holiday

Save on water- and energy-efficient products. Products include showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and accessories, toilets, urinals and landscape irrigation controls.

Also lawn and garden products that save water.

Also air conditioners, refrigerators, ceiling fans, LED bulbs, dishwashers, clothes washers, dehumidifiers, and more.

WED. JUN. 1

Meet Commissioner Tom Ramsey at Highlands Chamber lunch



With county Precinct re-alignment, Highlands now has two Commissioners. Meet Pct. 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey for lunch, at the Highlands Community Center. 11:30am-1:00pm, Wednesday June 1. Fundraiser for the Chamber, \$30 a person, reservations 713-851-5746 or highlandschamber@verizon.net.

FRI-SAT. JUN 3/4 Crosby Library Book Sale

Friends of the Crosby Edith Fae Cook Cole Branch Library Book Sale will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022 from 1-6pm and on Saturday June 4, 2022 from 10am-5pm.

Children's books, mysteries, romance, cook and craft books are just a sample of book choices. There's so much more and discounts too!

Proceeds benefit the library and support summer reading programs. Questions call 832-927-7790"

THU. JUNE 23

Spearman Memorial Issue

On the 1 year Anniversary of the loss of our colleague Lewis Spearman, we will publish tributes in his memory.

You are invited to submit your thoughts and remembrances for inclusion in this special Memorium. Email grafikstar@aol.com.



Crosby's outstanding Boys Baseball team salutes the sunset, a symbol of the end of the school year. Graduation is this Friday, May 27.

Crosby Superintendent's message to the community

Marking Year-end successes, employee pay raise, champion teams, and more.

Hello East Harris County and Crosby ISD families,

The school year is ending, our seniors are moving to the next chapter in their lives as proud Alumni, and the District's work continues.

On April 18, the Crosby ISD Board of Trustees approved a \$1,000 retention stipend for all employees returning for the 2022-2023 school year. We've also bumped up the starting pay for brand-new teachers to \$60,175 and will give a 1% raise for staff members. Crosby ISD remains one of the most competitive Districts for recruitment in Harris



**SUPERINTENDENT
PAULA PATTERSON**

County.

This year was certainly not without its struggles, but I did want to share some of our accomplishments in regard to local

governance. The SEC investigation into financial practices of a prior administration has concluded. No fine or other penalty was imposed on the District. Earlier this month, the Moody's Rating Agency upgraded Crosby ISD's bond rating, raising confidence in the District's financial condition for investors and taxpayers. Also this month, the Texas Education Agency ended the supervision of Crosby ISD by a monitor hired by the TEA. This move gives our Board more local control and autonomy in making decisions.

This month, we celebrated these and other tri-

umphs at a year-end banquet, specifically thanking members of the Crosby / Barrett Station communities who contributed to our success this year. We couldn't do what we do without our valued community members.

Speaking of success, the CHS Softball team set numerous records this year in their regular and post-season run. Our 2022 team set school history with the most team wins ever at 31. Our softball team has been Bi-District Champs three years in a row, Area Champs two years in a row, made it to the Regional Semi Finals in 2021 & 2022, and the Regional Fi-

nals in 2021. Most importantly, these ladies are the definition of student-athletes. Fourteen players were named 21-5A Academic All District, including Grace Sparks as the Pitcher of the Year and Hannah Wiggins as the Utility Player of the Year. Thank you to Head Coach Troy Fox and the entire coaching and sports medicine staff for keeping our players healthy, on task, and leaders in the classroom.

The Crosby High School Baseball team had a terrific run in the playoffs, mak-

Continued. See Crosby Superintendent, p. 5

Memorial Day Services to honor veterans May 30th at Sterling-White FH & Cemetery

HIGHLANDS – The public is invited to join Sterling-White Funeral Home & Cemetery on Monday, May 30 at 10:00 am for their annual Memorial Day Commemoration and Community picnic.

The traditional service is in honor of loved ones who have served our country.

"Let us not forget the brave men and women who fought for our country."

There will be a Roll Call with the names of those honored for their service. See page 5 of this issue for a list of those who will be honored.

Waste Pits meeting May 26 in Channelview to hear new information from THEA/SJRC

Channelview Health & Improvement Coalition will be holding an in-person meeting next Thursday night, May 26th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Channelview Fire Department Station 3 located at 1210 Dell Dale, Channelview, TX 77530. There will be a social time from 5:30 - 6:20 p.m. before the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Texas Health & Envi-

ronment Alliance/San Jacinto River Coalition – Rachel Jordan – Will be sharing information from the May 16th SJR Waste Pits Community Advisory Panel meeting with the EPA, provide updates regarding the Waste Pits and address your Waste Pits questions. A copy of the slides from the EPA San Jacinto River Waste Pits PowerPoint presentation at the May 17th

meeting is attached for your review prior to our meeting.

Representatives from Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia's office, Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey's office, Pollution Control, and HC Sheriff's Office will be attending to hear your concerns and to be available to speak with you.

Highlands Horizons present 2022 Scholarships

HIGHLANDS – The Highlands Horizons Club presented their 2022 Scholarship Winners last Monday, May 16th at a Reception at the San Jacinto Community Center.

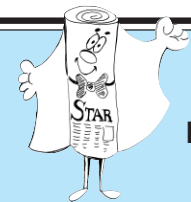
Each winner received a check for \$500, except our two winners of Memorial Scholarship Awards. They received \$1,000 each.

The Scholarship reception was on Monday, May 16 at the San Jacinto Community Center in Highlands.

Presentations were made by club president Delene Cotten, Highlands Horizons.

2022 Highlands Horizons Scholarship Winners are:

Riley Banks
Sofia Beltran-(Debbie Dickinson Scholarship Award)-\$1,000
Delilah Cancino
Berenice Collazo
Camila Miranda
Haley Nugent
Mindy Perez
Alexa Ramirez
Isabella Serrano-(Jennie Robbins Scholarship Award)-\$1,000
Atharv Shinde
Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients, and good luck in your future endeavors.



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GOOSE CREEK MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL



PUNEET
SINGH
Valedictorian



ATHARV
SHINDE
Salutatorian



IRENE
MARTINEZ
Third



DANIEL
LI
Fourth



ANUSHKA
RANJAN
Fifth



MINDY
PEREZ
Sixth



BERENICE
COLLAZO
Seventh



JAY
ASOK
Eighth



AMBER
WORLEY
Ninth



ETHAN
GOODMAN
Tenth



ROBERT E. LEE
HIGH SCHOOL



LINDSEY
FOX
Valedictorian



TAYLER
EDWARDS
Salutatorian



REBECCA
ARCHIBALD
Third



JEAN-LUC
POULIN
Fourth



RACHEL
ROCHE
Fifth



ELIZABETH
FRANCIS
Sixth



MINNIE
BRINKMAN
Seventh



FABIOLA
GONZALEZ
Eighth



JENNIFER
CEJA
Ninth



JAZMIN
PESINA
Tenth



IMPACT EARLY COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL



ABRIANNA
MULLIN
Valedictorian



ADAM
KINDER
Salutatorian



MADELEINE
BROUSSARD
Third



GREG
ORDONEZ
Fourth



YAREMY
TREJO
Fifth



ELYSA
TORRES
Sixth



VICTORIA
GONZALEZ
Seventh



GENESIS
CASTRO
Eighth



DANA
MORARA
Ninth



KAYLA
CRUTCHFIELD
Tenth



ROSS S. STERLING
HIGH SCHOOL



MEGAN
ONDAP
Valedictorian



MELANIE
ESPINOSA
Salutatorian



DELILAH
GONZALES
Third



KRYSTAL
GARCIA
Fourth



CRYSTAL
SMITH
Fourth



BRIAN
WARD
Sixth



DALIA
SIFUENTES
Seventh



SELENI
BERNARDEZ-TABORA
Eighth



JASMIN
PEREZ
Ninth



GRACE
MURRAY
Tenth



112 Denny St. Highlands, TX 77562-Dine In & Boutique Shopping
15110 FM 2100 Ste. 9 Crosby, TX 77532-Pickup Only & Boutique Shopping
281-426-3670
5/31-6/4

Desserts of The Week-Blueberry 4 Layer, Chocolate Spoon Loving Cake, Reese's Peanut Butter pie \$3.95

Large Family Meal Feeds 6+ \$50* Small Family Meal Feeds 4+ \$40* Single Meal \$11.95

Tuesday: Old Fashioned Creamy Chicken & Rice, Crack Carrots, Garlic Bread & Cake Balls

Wednesday: Salisbury Steak, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Parmesan Green Beans, Rolls & Confetti Cake

Thursday: Chicken Pot Pie, Garden Salad, Mini Muffins & a Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea. (available in singles & one size family meal feeds 4-6) \$45.00

Friday: Party Tray! Turkey & Swiss Honey Mustard Sliders, Little Smokies lightly drizzled with BBQ Sauce, Potato Salad & Straight to the Hip Dip with graham crackers! (available in one size family meal (4+) \$45.00, Individual Meal \$11.95

Saturday: Come have lunch & Shop with us!

We Deliver Lunch & Dinner!

\$40.00 Minimum or as close as possible!

Pre-Order or Order the Day of... Whatever works for YOU!

Add a Gallon of Sweet or Unsweet Tea for \$4.00

Add a Gallon of Peach or Raspberry Tea for \$6.00



STUART CAREER TECH
HIGH SCHOOL



LEIA
VINSON
Valedictorian



GILBERT
LONGORIA
Salutatorian



JENNIFER
ODUKOYA
Third



THOMAS
PATTY
Fourth



EDGAR
MORA
Fifth



ISIS
GOMEZ
Sixth



JULIAN
GONZALEZ
Seventh



NEIDA
DEL VALLE
Eighth



JAMIE
LUCATERO
Ninth



BRANDON
PEREZ
Tenth



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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

MONT BELVIEU, TEXAS 77580

ON THE HILL

Library announces 2022 Summer Reading Program! Read anything. Track minutes. Earn badges. Get rewarded.



The annual summer program at the library will be a fun and engaging experience for the whole family. The theme for the 2022 Summer Reading Program is, "Carnival of Reading"! And it's a circus inside the libraries! The program will take place June 6 - July 16 (pre-registration starts May 30) and the goal is simple: read. You can read anything from magazines to books to cereal boxes! Track your progress online using our online reading software called **Beanstack**. You can use their website, or download the app for your mobile device. Track multiple family members using one login. If you aren't comfortable with the technology, the library staff will be happy to register for you.

For every hour you read, you'll be entered to into a drawing to win prizes each week! Complete all 10 hours to be entered into the grand prize drawing!

This year we are happy to announce that all programs will be in person! There's fun for all ages with programs for kids, teens, and adults. Just a few include, Carnival day (earn tickets by playing games and redeem for prizes), Movie days, Visit with local first responders, Bubble Foam party with John O'Bryant and Kona Ice, Crafting on the rocks (for adults), Tie dye programs and escape rooms for teens, and yummy circus snacks like sno-cones, cotton candy, popcorn, & much more! Check out your local library's specific programs on our Summer Reading Program page here: www.chambers.lib.tx.us/srp2022-page.

All libraries are back to normal hours with curbside service also available. Don't miss out on this fun-filled summer! For more information, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or give us a call! **Chambers County Library at Anahuac: 409-267-2554**
Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch at Winnie: 409-296-8245
Sam and Carmena Goss Memorial Branch at Mont Belvieu: 281-576-2245.

Chambers County Seeking Public-Private Partnership for new Justice Center

CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS- On April 12, 2022, Chambers County Commissioner's Court voted to move forward with the procurement of the Chambers County Justice Center through a public-private partnership.

The County will solicit qualified applicants through a request for qualifications. The most qualified development team will contract with the County to design, build, finance, and maintain a 200,000-square-foot facility, including a 300-bed jail, law enforcement center, courthouse, and emergency operations center. By procuring the Justice Center through a public-private partnership, the County will be able to construct the new facility without a tax rate increase, meet the Texas Commission on Jail Standards requirement that a new jail is constructed within 3 years, and deliver the project cheaper and more efficiently than under



der a traditional design-bid-build procurement program.

Chambers County began this process in December of 2015 with an appointed advisory committee made up of residents from Chambers County. The needs assessment evaluated population demographics, jail standards, number of required beds, and needs of a growing district and county court. The citizen-led committee ultimately recommended that the County construct a new Judicial Center. Following that recommendation, the

County then hired HOK Architects to conduct a feasibility study to determine the overall scope and location of the

project. Since 2016, The County has been working towards implementing the plan.

Approximately 75 percent of the land in downtown Anahuac has been acquired for the project, and jail compliance efforts are currently underway.

County Judge Jimmy Sylvia said, "The existing Courthouse was constructed in 1937 when the County's population was approximately 5,710. The

current courthouse has served Chambers County well for many years, but we have outgrown the facility. As one of the fastest-growing counties in Texas, it's time we look towards how to meet the needs of the Chambers County residents and businesses moving forward.

"I couldn't agree more with the Commissioner's decision to move forward with a public-private partnership. Being able to construct this project without a tax rate increase is the highest priority for myself and the Court," Sheriff Brian Hawthorne commented, "This project is going to alleviate many of the challenges the Sheriff's Office faces, especially with our jail. The Texas Commission of Jail Standards issued a notice that our jail is out of compliance and that we had to be in compliance within a 3-year period or face penalties. The County is currently spending over six figures a year housing inmates in other Counties'

jails. This new justice center will allow us to save that money and ultimately offset the cost of the new facility by generating revenue housing other Counties' inmates in this facility. I'm very pleased the Court decided to move forward with this much needed project.

Across Texas, public-private partnerships are a growing trend in procurement facilities and infrastructure for various government entities. Travis County recently formed a public-private partnership to construct a new \$335 million Civil and Family Court facility. Fort Bend County is constructing a \$100 million, 10,000 seat arena known as Fort Bend Epicenter. Locally, the City of Baytown is constructing a new hotel and convention center for \$63.6 million. Chambers

County will soon be another example of how public and private entities can work together to best meet the needs of taxpayers.

Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown

Exploring Reconstructive Surgery Options After Mastectomy

For some women who've had (or will have) a mastectomy, reconstructive surgery can help them feel and look better. And, it doesn't necessarily mean breast implants. Today's techniques allow surgeons to transplant tissue from another part of the body to the mastectomy site.

THE TRAM AND DIEP FLAP APPROACH

One popular approach uses the abdominal tissue as a transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous (TRAM) or deep inferior epigastric perforator (DIEP) flap. "During abdominal flap surgery, we take excess skin, fat and sometimes muscle from the abdomen together as a unit, or flap, and transplant it to the chest," explained Dr. Richard W. Siy, plastic surgeon with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. "We reposition it in the mastectomy wound, reconnect its blood supply if needed, and suture it to the edges of the breast incision." Abdominal-based reconstructive

tion can involve a free flap, in which the tissue is completely taken off the body and then its blood supply reconnected to blood vessels in the chest. Or, the surgeon can leave one or two stalks of tissue, called pedicles, connected to the original abdominal site to supply blood. In cases when women have too little abdominal fat or too many abdominal scars, doctors may recommend using different flaps from the buttocks, back or thigh tissue. Additional surgeries may be necessary to create a nipple or to refine the results.

When is the right time for reconstructive surgery?

Flap surgery can be performed during mastectomy surgery or many years later. It also may be appropriate after a lumpectomy in which the surgeon has removed a large amount of breast tissue. Since the goal is to create a balanced look, a breast lift or a reduction of the healthy breast may also be helpful.



DR. RICHARD SIY

Women who have breast reconstruction at the time of the mastectomy may have longer operations and higher risk of wound-healing problems. On the other hand, immediate reconstruction may soften the emotional impact of the mastectomy, limit the total number of surgeries and reduce medical expenses. If you are unsure about reconstructive surgery, it may be better to wait. Additionally, you may need to postpone final reconstructive surgery if you plan to undergo radiation or chemotherapy. Be sure to

let your surgeon know if you're considering future reconstructive surgery.

What can I expect?

The operation may last from six to eight hours. Hospital stays of up to a week are not uncommon. As with any surgery, swelling, infection or blood clots may occur. Because some abdominal muscle is removed during TRAM flap surgery, weakened abdominal walls may bulge or lead to back pain. For these reasons, some surgeons strengthen the abdominal wall with synthetic mesh during the surgery.

How will I look and feel?

Your new breast will appear normal under clothing. Often the surgeon can sculpt the tissue to closely match the opposite breast. Outwardly, the new breast may feel natural, but it will not have the same sensation as your original breast. "Some women recover some feeling, usually beginning about six months after surgery," Siy

said. "Today's microsurgical tools and techniques allow us to reestablish nerve function in many cases." Until then, doctors advise extra caution, particularly when sunbathing. Some women have been severely sunburned on the breast and/or abdomen.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Ask your doctor to connect you with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery program. Through this program, you may talk to someone who had the operation you're considering. Also, obtain a second surgical opinion if desired and check your insurance coverage. Armed with the facts, you'll be able to make the best decision for your physical and emotional health.

To discuss options for reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy or lumpectomy, visit a plastic surgeon with Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. To make an appointment, call 346.292.1895.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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Boater's Education Course

*A person at least 13 years of age or born on or after September 1, 1993, may operate without supervision only if he or she has passed a boater education course that is accepted by TPWD.

*All person's required to have passed a state-approved boater education course must carry with them on the vessel:

*Photo ID and a boater education certification card after completing boater's education course issued by TPWD.

June 3rd
Anahuac Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center - 4017 FM 563 Anahuac TX 77514

June 17th
Beaumont Texas A&M AgriLife Office -1225 Pearl Street Beaumont, TX Suite 200

Cost - \$20
Bring your own Lunch
Time 9 am - 4 pm
Register online - EDUCATION REGISTRATION SYSTEM
<http://elementims.com>

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OPINION PAGE

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OPINION



By District Attorney Kim Ogg



Statement from Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg on Justice in Harris County

We at the District Attorney’s Office take an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, the laws of the United States and of this State, Texas. We rely upon evidence to bring cases before grand juries, courts and trial juries. Our mission is to seek justice in every single case and we are doing our job.

The nearly daily public misstatements being made by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo about pending felony cases brought against three members of her staff now compel comment to the public by this office and by me, the top law enforcement official in Harris County. Failing to do so allows a top county official, in her official capacity, to continue to improperly influence those people of Harris County who will serve on the jury in this case. This harms everyone, including the accused, and must stop.



HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE LINA HIDALGO

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KIM OGG

The process our Harris County government utilizes to issue contracts and to aid Harris County residents with problems like COVID-19 should be a totally transparent process, ethically and under law. The criminal charges currently being prosecuted by the Harris County DA’s Office were brought after a diverse grand jury indicted the defendants.

An indictment is a finding by a grand jury of probable cause that crime occurred, and in this instance that three “public servants,” while working in the County Judge’s Office, diverted an \$11 million contract to a political consultant under the guise of COVID vaccine outreach – money that a more qualified bidder could have used to accomplish the worthwhile goal of increasing awareness and participation in COVID vaccination in underrepresented communities throughout Harris County.

In this case, a grand jury spent five months reviewing evidence and listening to testimony concerning the Elevate Strategies contract procurement. Judge Hidalgo has referred to case evidence, to information the investigators and prosecutors don’t have. She has an ethical duty and responsibility to provide any evidence under oath to the Texas Rangers and she should do so immediately.

The criminal justice process is not a debate. It is not theater. It is the search for truth and the place for accountability under the law. We do not fight out our differences in the streets or on social media and I will not try this case in the court of public opinion. We will try this case, like every other criminal case, in a court of law before a jury of peers, and we will look to them for a fair outcome. When all the evidence is seen by a trial court, justice will prevail; our work continues.

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LETTERS

To The Editor

Governor Abbott Statement On Federal Court Keeping Title 42 Expulsions

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today released a statement following a federal court’s preliminary injunction keeping Title 42 expulsions in place:

“Another federal court announced today what we have known all along: President Biden is ignoring federal law with his open border policies.

While today’s court ruling rejecting President Biden’s ending of Title 42 expulsions is a positive development, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants remain at our southern border ready to flood into Texas.

Texas will continue utilizing all available resources and strategies to prevent this mass illegal migration, including the deployment of Texas Department of Public Safety and Texas National Guard resources, the coordination with Mexican border governors, and the activation of the Joint Border Security Operations Center.


We remain vigilant in fighting the lifting of Title 42 expulsions.”



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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Gary Borders



Early runoff voting ends Friday

Early voting in the May 24 primary runoff elections ends Friday, May 20. Under state law, voters who cast ballots in either party’s primary election must vote only in the same party’s runoff election. Voters who did not cast ballots in the primary may vote in either party’s runoff election. Topping the runoff ballots are runoff elections for attorney general. Incumbent Republican Ken Paxton faces George P. Bush, the current land commissioner. On the Democratic side, former Galveston mayor Joe Jaworski faces Rochelle Garza, a Brownsville civil rights attorney.

There are also statewide runoff races for lieutenant governor, land commissioner, comptroller and railroad commissioner, as well as several congressional seats and spots on the state board of education. See the full list of runoff races at: <https://tinyurl.com/43bzf9v6>.

ERCOT URGES TEXANS TO CONSERVE POWER

After six power generation plants went offline Friday during the start to an unseasonably hot weekend, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas urged Texans to conserve power, the Austin American-Statesman reported. As temperatures soared into the 90s and even 100s in some parts of the state, residents were urged to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher and avoid using large appliances such as dishwashers, washers and dryers between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The hot weather is sparking record electricity demand across the states and it not only May.

ABBOTT’S USE OF COVID FUNDS ON BORDER MISSION PROBED

The inspector general for the U.S. Treasury De-



partment has opened a review into how the state spent federal COVID-19 aid funds, with approximately \$1 billion in relief funds shifted to the crack-down on the Texas-Mexico border, The Washington Post reported. The aid was intended to help local governments pay front-line COVID-19 workers, purchase protective equipment and for other public health costs.

Richard K. Delmar, the deputy inspector general, issued a statement citing his office’s mandate “for monitoring and oversight of the distribution” of the stimulus spending, which Texas received under a federal initiative known as the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Post reported.

“In exercise of that responsibility,” Delmar said, “We are currently conducting a review of Texas’s uses of CRF monies.” A spokesman for Gov. Greg Abbott defended how Texas used federal funds received under the Cares Act.

MORE THAN 900 MIGRANTS SENT TO D.C.

Under Abbott’s direction, the state has sent 35 chartered buses with 922 migrants to Washington, D.C. since mid-April, The Dallas Morning News reported. The governor has called it a “fun” way to get President Joe Biden’s attention, harshly criticizing

the president for the administration’s border policies. However, The Morning News reported the impact on the nation’s capital has been minimal, with the migrants being processed and sent to live in different cities until their cases can be heard in court.

“He’s [Abbott] no longer even making a big deal about it. You’re not seeing it on the nightly news. It’s a dud,” said Abel Nuñez, executive director of the Central American Resource Center, one of the groups helping migrants who arrive from Texas. “It’s happening in silence now. This is not giving him the political win that he wanted.”

The state of Arizona has also begun busing migrants to Washington, D.C.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSIST ACROSS STATE

As a hydrologist for the Texas Water Development Board put it, “April wasn’t great” in terms of rainfall. However, about a sixth of the state did get abundant rainfall, in parts of Central Texas, North Texas and South Texas. Dr. Mark Wentzel wrote that rainfall received in May could be key to getting through the summer without widespread severe drought.

“May, historically, has been the wettest month for Texas,” Wentzel wrote. “We get an average of 3 1/3 inches of rainfall in that month, making it the wettest month of the year for us. We want to be cautiously optimistic.” The most severe drought conditions are found in the Panhandle and High Plains and in the Big Bend area. April showers in much of East Texas brought both May flowers but an easing of drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

COVID-19 CASES AGAIN RISE SLIGHTLY

The number of new COVID-19 cases in the state during the past week rose slightly to 24,092, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University, with 73 new deaths reported - also a slight increase. Once again, the number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations in Texas stayed steady, with 772 reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The number of Texans who are fully vaccinated now stands at 17.641 million, or 60.5% of the state’s population; 6,821 million Texans have received a booster dose, according to DSHS.

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THE POSTSCRIPT

By Carrie Classon

Poking and Clicking

“You gotta keep poking and clicking,” a friend tells me. “That’s what my daughter does.”

By this, she means that learning new technology is not a straight path. I have to play with it. I have to find the process of learning fun and challenging and not get hung up when I make mistakes along the way.

I know I’m not the only one who finds the “poke and click” mindset a challenge when I just want to get the darned thing done and move on to something I enjoy. Like reading a book. With real pages.

My current frustration is with my phone. I use my phone for taking photos and, occasionally, for making actual phone calls. I don’t do well with texting. If you send me an email (and I hope you do!), I’ll likely respond within minutes because I am sitting at my computer all day pretending to write. Getting an email gives me an excuse to leave whatever I am working on and send off a cheery note.

My phone, on the other hand, sits on the corner of my desk, ignored. It must make a noise or something when people text me, but I never notice. It isn’t until I pick it up to make an actual phone call (which could be a very long time) that I see I have a message.

“Uh-oh. I hope it’s not Mom.”

It won’t be my mom. She learned her lesson ages ago and no longer sends me text messages because I never see them. She sends me an email, which—she will tell you—I respond to immediately.

I have never bonded with my phone. I don’t use it much because I’m already on my computer. I have this gigantic monitor, and switching over to the itty-bitty screen doesn’t make sense to me. I might have to put on my reading glasses. I don’t see the point.

The result is that I don’t know how to use my phone very well. But my phone isn’t helping me any. It doesn’t even take pictures easily. The response time is so slow that the person I am trying to photograph has allowed the smile to fade from their face. The dog I am photographing has been distracted and is looking in the other direction. The sun has gone under a cloud—or possibly set—before my phone gets around to snapping a photo.

“You need a new phone,” my husband, Peter, said after taking six photos in a row that looked as if the subject was under-water.

And so, after a lot of consideration, I decided to buy a new phone. I tried to buy one from a phone store, but they didn’t answer their phone. I realized what a dumb bunny I was. You’re not supposed to call a phone store. Duh.

So I did what they wanted me to do and ordered it online. Now it is coming in the mail, and I am filled with a faint dread because I am sure I will have to do something complicated to get it up and working—something involving a lot of poking and clicking—before I am allowed to simply take less fuzzy photos and ignore my text messages in peace.

It’s good for me, I suppose. Poking and clicking will fend off Alzheimer’s perhaps and make me believe I am not too old to learn new tricks.

But the truth is, I’m not really looking for new tricks. Today, I’d be perfectly happy with some old tricks that worked.

Till next time,

Carrie

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GOOSE CREEK NEWS

Goose Creek CISD Superintendent's Message to the Community

Greetings GCCISD Family,



Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent

We have reached the end of the road, and what an amazing school year it has been. Our district has celebrated so many successes this year and we look forward to even more in the future.

Our educators are the backbone of our district. It is their hard work and grit that continues to push our students toward excellence. There are no perfect students, but our teachers, with their many years of experience, understand how to reach every student where they are. They come early and stay late. They serve as surrogate parents to many of our students; treating them as members of their own families. They provide them with the support, encouragement, and discipline that is required for them to be successful; not only in the classroom, but in life. They shield them from the negativity of the world, while also preparing them for the harsh reality that life isn't always perfect. But in those moments, where students feel uneasy and unsure of themselves, they know that their teacher loves them, cares for them, and truly wants the best for them. They are the safe place that many of them need and we cannot say thank you enough to them for that.

We cannot forget to thank our amazing principals, campus leadership and paraprofessionals for their support and dedication to our district. Our district leaders do their part to support our campuses and departments and provide our educators with opportunities to develop themselves professionally.

Our Technology department continues to set the standard for excellence, expertise and innovation. Under the tutelage of Chief Technology Officer, Matt Flood, and Cybersecurity Specialist, Gary Lackey, Goose Creek became the fifth district in Texas to earn the national distinction for Student Data Privacy Practices by the Consortium of School Networking. The TLE Seal is a prestigious national distinction that school districts earn for demonstrating a commitment to protecting student data through modern, rigorous policies and practices. But that wasn't the only GIANT celebration the department had this year. Matt Flood was recognized as the Texas and National "CTO of the Year" by CoSN during their national

convention in Nashville. Flood is a product of the district and his journey to this point is a testament to our students that hard work and determination are the keys to success.

Our athletes had an impressive season, with our Lee basketball team going into triple-overtime against State Champions, Beaumont United. Though they did not make it to State, the grit they displayed during this season does not go unnoticed. Trudell Berry, defensive back and wide receiver for Baytown Lee, participated in the 2022 All-American Bowl that took place on January 8th in San Antonio. Berry will begin his collegiate football career at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Cameron Chin ended his high school career as the Class 5A 400-meter State Champion! His win is the first Sterling state title in boys' state track since 2007. From powerlifting to soccer, from baseball to softball and beyond; our student athletes excel on and off the court.

Where our students shine the brightest is academically. The GCM Math team, led by Byoung Kang, performed extremely well this season. They advanced to the State Academic UIL competition, held at the University of Texas at Austin May 6-7th. Swayam Gupta, Arin Sood, Atharv Shinde, and Puneet Singh and though they did win, they are currently preparing to sweep the competition next year. Impact Early College High School earned the 2021 College Success Award- Gold, given by GreatSchools.org. The National recognition celebrates high schools with a multiyear track record of preparing students to succeed in college.

The district held several facility events this year as well. We began the year with the dedication of the Edward "E.F." Green Junior School in August. Green was the first Black deputy superintendent in the district. Phase four of the Stuart Career Technical High School was completed this year as well. The Digital Communications and I.T. Academics were the final academies to open in the state-of-the-art campus. Eva Bradford, coach at Highlands Junior School, was honored during a special renaming ceremony on May 18th. The gym at Highlands Junior was renamed in honor of Coach

Bradford in 2020, but due to the pandemic, the celebration was tabled to a later date. Coach Bradford has given her time, life and love to the district for over 40 years and it was only right that she was honored in this manner. The Board recently approved the naming of the Sterling High School gym after Coach Nadine Horne and the Sterling football field after Coach Al Dennis. These renaming events will take place in the fall. Groundbreakings for the Shelia Liles Early Learning Academy and Robotics Center were held later that month and ribbon cuttings for Jessie Lee Pumphrey and San Jacinto Elementary Schools were held on May 25th. These buildings are scheduled to open in the fall.

Each year, the district hosts a Teacher of the Year and retirement banquet. This year's event was held on May 19th at Goose Creek Memorial High School. Twelve employees participated, with a combined total of 262 years of service to the district. Retirees included: Rosie Adolphin, Lenora Anderson, Georgiana Bighorse, Robert Chambliss, Carol Colvin, Leslie Cushman, Melissa Fitz, Gina Ham, Sgt. Sharon Jackson, Chris Mergell, Cindy Tannery and Chako Williams. We thank them for their service to our district and we wish them the best. They have given unselfishly to our students and staff for many years and we could never repay them for their kindness. Every campus selects a Teacher of the Year and from those teachers, district-wide winners are selected. Elementary Teachers of the Year included: **Monica Heredia**, Alamo Elementary; **Stacey Nethery**, Austin Elementary; **Christina Alford**, Banuelos Elementary; **Unika Jackson**, Bowie Elementary; **Heather Phillips**, Carver Elementary; **Amanda Garza**, Clark Elementary; **Anitra Collette**, Crockett Elementary; **Angela Rowland**, De Zavala Elementary; **Lauren Pabst**, Harlem Elementary; **Pamela Aaron**, Highlands Elementary; **Maria Diaz**, Hopper Primary; **Tamika Higgins**, Lamar Elementary; **Melissa Grothe**, San Jacinto Elementary; **Najera Guillermo**, Ashbel Smith Elementary; **Megan Winemiller**, Travis Elementary and **Meagan Evans Taylor**, Victoria Walker Elementary.

Secondary Teachers of the Year included: **Erica Scott**, Baytown Junior School; **Ruby Moulin**, Cedar Bayou Junior; **Jonathan Abston**, Gentry Junior School; **Trisha Rojas**, E.F. Green Junior School; **Tracy Gaston Gray**, Highlands Junior School; **Wanda Verdun**, Horace Mann Junior School; **Diztorsha Lavan**, Goose Creek Memorial H.S.; **Emily Patrick**, IMPACT Early College H.S.; **Laquoia Alexander**, Robert E. Lee High School; **Jessica Mondesir**, Peter E. Hyland Center; **Andre DeFreitas**, POINT Alternative Center; **Dorothy Warner**, Ross S. Sterling High School and **Ykita Destin Jones**, Stuart Career Tech High School.

The GCCISD District Teachers of the Year are Lauren Pabst, Elementary Teacher of the Year, from Harlem Elementary School, and Laquoia Alexander, Secondary Teacher of the Year, from Lee High School. These amazing educators will move on to the Region IV Teacher of the Year selection process. The award ceremony will be held August 4th in Houston.

We are ending the year on a high note with our commencement ceremonies.

Eighty-four students graduated from Impact Early College High School and 57 from Stuart Career Technical High School on May 24th at Lee College. We will host our final three commencement ceremonies, Robert E. Lee, Goose Creek Memorial and Sterling High Schools, on Friday, May 27th at the University of Houston Fertitta Center. Four hundred and forty students graduated from Lee, 542 from Goose Creek Memorial and 545 from Sterling High School. Our amazing GIANT graduates have earned over \$12 million in scholarships; with \$200,250 of the total from local donors. These students will head to two-year or four-year colleges, trade schools, the U.S. Armed Forces or the workforce, prepared because of the education they received in our district. Many of our graduates already have one diploma under their belt, as they received their associate's degrees from Lee College earlier this month. We also had close to 100 seniors graduate with a level one certificate from Lee College and 591 with at least one college dual-credit course on their transcript. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that our dis-

trict remain competitive and continue to provide of all our students the access to a higher education.

We want to thank our Board of Trustees for their continuous support of our students and staff. It goes without saying that a supportive board is the best board to have and I can say emphatically that is what we have in Goose Creek CISD. They continuously bend over backwards for our 4,000 employees and 24,000 students and we can't thank them enough for seeing the vision for our district and supporting us along the way.

Our Baytown and Highlands communities have always been the backbone of Goose Creek CISD. We thank you for allowing us to educate your amazingly talented students. Without them, there would be no Goose Creek CISD. We thank you for standing with us as we continue to grow and to provide every student with the opportunity to learn in a safe learning environment.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing our GIANT staff and students return for the first day of school on August 10th!



SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Richard Clem, GCCISD Board President; Katie Dean, 2021 Secondary Teacher of the Year; Tina Martinez, Community Resource Credit Union Marketing Director; Laquoia Alexander, 2022 Secondary Teacher of the Year; Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent; and Helon Berrott-Tims, Board Trustee.



ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Richard Clem, GCCISD Board President; Brianna Lee, 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year; Lauren Pabst, 2022 Elementary Teacher of the Year; Tina Martinez, Community Resource Credit Union Marketing Director; Dr. Randal O'Brien, Superintendent; and Helon Berrott-Tims, Board Trustee.

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Cordially invites you to join us on Monday, May 30, 2022 at Ten O'Clock in the Morning for our annual Memorial Day Commemoration and community picnic as we honor lost loved ones who have served our country.

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ON MEMORIAL DAY

- Let us not forget the brave men and women
- who fought for our country.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit No. 9383, which would authorize continued operation of a ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals Facility located at 16503 Ramsey Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas 77532. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

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NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN
AIR PERMIT (NORI) RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 9383

APPLICATION. ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 9383, which would authorize continued operation of a ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals Facility located at 16503 Ramsey Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas 77532. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=29.921666&lng=-95.053055&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: chlorine, chlorine dioxide, ethyl mercaptan, ethyleneimine, hydrogen bromide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, methyl mercaptan, nitric acid, carbon monoxide, hazardous air pollutants, nitrogen oxides, organic compounds, particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less and sulfur dioxide.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on April 19, 2022. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Houston regional office, and the Crosby Branch Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, Harris County, Texas beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Houston regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. In addition to the renewal, this permitting action includes the incorporation of permits by rule and standard permits related to this permit. The reasons for any changes or incorporations, to the extent they are included in the renewed permit, may include the enhancement of operational control at the plant or enforceability of the permit. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT. You may submit public comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in developing a final decision on the application and the executive director will prepare a response those comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. You may request a contested case hearing if you are a person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility; and (7) a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period. If the request is made by a group or association, one or more members who have standing to request a hearing must be identified by name and physical address. The interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns.

The deadline to submit a request for a contested case hearing is 15 days after newspaper notice is published. If a request is timely filed, the deadline for requesting a contested case hearing will be extended to 30 days after mailing of the response to comments.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material air quality concerns submitted during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from ALTIVIA Oxide Chemicals, LLC, P.O. Box 180, Haverhill, Ohio 45636 or by calling Mr. Jason Patrick, ESH Manager, at (740) 532-3420.

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Jun 4–Donnie & Connie Larrison
Jun 6–Randy & Nita Sloan

Crosby Message,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing it to the Regional Quarterfinal round. Ten players were named 21-5A Academic All District, including pitcher Sean Bazmore as District MVP and catcher Larry Johns as Defensive Player of the Year. Coach Chris Wiggins was named the 21-5A Coach of the Year. These boys showed grit and gave it their all up to the last out.

This month, the Board of Trustees saluted nearly two dozen student groups for their achievements during the Spring semester. My heart beamed as we celebrated: Chess Club, Theater Arts, Cougar Stars, Softball, Boys & Girls Basketball, Boys & Girls Track & Field, Boys & Girls Soccer, Boys & Girls Golf, Swim Team, Powerlifters, Choir, Top Scholars, Audio/Visual and Art students. Our Crosby High School Culinary Arts students even catered dinner for the Board that evening as well. It was delicious!

The year culminates in our Class of 2022 Graduation ceremony on Friday, May 27th at 7:30pm at Cougar Stadium. We hope to see you there! We will salute 450 seniors who will instantly become proud Crosby High School alumni. I can't wait to wish each of them well and watch them grow, mature, and become future leaders. Many of the graduates are choosing a future in education. I hope they all want to return and teach subsequent generations in Crosby ISD. They are welcome to pay it forward like so many alumni before them.

Finally, our theme for the 2021-2022 school year was: "This Is Now!" At our year-end banquet, we unveiled a new theme: "Better Together." Crosby ISD is not standing still. We made some strides this year, but we know it will take all of us moving in the same direction to deliver on the promise of education to each student trusted in our care. It's a trust we cherish.

We are Better Together! Go Coogs!

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- **World-class physicians and nurses:** A skilled and compassionate team of experts who work together to provide outstanding, personalized primary and specialty care
- **Convenient campus parking:** Fully covered parking garage allows visitors to park with ease and access the entire hospital campus, so parking is one less thing to think about



Visit houstonmethodist.org/baytown or call **281.428.2273** to make an appointment with our primary or specialty care physicians, or for a physician referral.